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Chapter One

Bella was outside. She was going to the old barn she and her friends used as a meeting place. Her friends were Bumble, who was almost all white with one black ear and a small ginger patch, Blacky, who was a jet- black tom- cat, and Patch who was a small cream colored cat.

When she arrived, Bumble, Blacky, and Patch were there.

"There you are, Bella!" Patch exclaimed. "We thought you weren't coming!" Blacky added. "Sorry I was late!" Bella apologized. "I woke up late and had to wait to cross the road. It was busy this morning." "It's alright ," Bumble purred. "You were busy." The rest of the cats nodded. "So, to start," Blacky began, twitching his tail angrily. "Have you heard the strays and forest cats calling us 'Kittypets'?" Bumble and Patch nodded. Bella was confused. *Well, we don't call them mean nick-names! Why should they?* "No," She meowed. "Tell me more about it." Blacky nodded. "Okay, so yesterday, I got bored and had my Housefolk let me out so I could go on a walk. Soon, I was going to practice hunting near the old oak, and then this brown tabby tom, ginger she-cat, and black and white tom came out of nowhere and started hissing at me to get off RedClan territory or else they would have to take me back to camp and Coralstar would decide what to do with me. They called me a 'Kittypet' one or two times." Bella nodded. This was interesting. "Anything else?" Bumble asked. "My Housefolk got a Goldfish," Patch began. "I can't wait to eat it!" Bella nodded. "Good for you," She said. "My Housefolk say they prefer cats and will stick with them. No way I'm going to get a rare and tasty treat like a fish." Blacky started scratching his claws on one of the support beams. "You could always go fishing." Bella shook her head. "Oh no. The water is not for me." "I love getting my paws wet!" Patch exclaimed. "I think I need to get home," Bumble meowed. "It's time for my walk to the lake." She got up and left. "See you tomorrow!" Blacky yowled up to her. "See you!" Bumble yowled back. The sound of her paw steps faded as she walked farther from the barn. "I'm going to go, too." Bella meowed. "Okay,

bye. See you tomorrow." Blacky meowed. "See you!" Bella mewed back. She walked in the field to go home. Bella thought her life would always be this simple. But she was wrong. Very, very wrong.

Chapter Two

Bella was sleeping on her Housefolk's living room couch. They had been gone for a few hours. It was nice to get some peace and quiet for once. Suddenly, the door flew open. They were home. Bella's ears perked up. "Were home, Bella!" Bella recognized the voice of Alice, who was a five year old girl. "Look who we got!" *Who?* Bella thought. This was a who not a what. *Is it another cat?* Bella soon got her answer as the older female had something that looked like a living ball of fluff in her arms. She then set it down. It was a cat! He was ginger and gray. "This is Smokey." Alice said. Smokey padded up to Bella. Bella slapped his head with her paw. "Aww, there friends already!" Alice squeaked.

But Bella had a bad feeling about this cat.

It was now the third day that Smokey had been with the family. Bella couldn't go to the old barn to meet her friends by herself anymore because Smokey wanted to come with her every time! She had to bring him. Her Housefolk would be worried if the two of them weren't getting along. According to Smokey from before, the Housefolk had only got him so Bella would have a friend. Bella got up on the couch and sighed. "Smokey is cluttering my life..." She sighed. She fell asleep.

It was the middle of the night. Bella woke up. She went in the kitchen and looked at the clock. It read 2:00.

Smokey was awake, too. "Bella! Hey, Bella!" He whisper- yowled. "Wwwwhhhhaaaattttt?????" Bella groned. "What do you want?" "Come here," Smokey meowed. "Okay, sure..." Bella meowed. She padded over. He had showed her a box. "Yeah, cool. Whatever." Bella mumbled. "Now go to bed." Smokey did exactly that. Once Bella was sure he was sleeping, she left the house. She couldn't take it any longer! She couldn't take *Smokey* any longer! She had to leave. She didn't know where to go, but something told her she would find a place to stay.

Chapter Three

It was the second day Bella had been on her own. It was the middle of the day and she had gone quite far from her Housefolk's nest. She was in a huge field in the countryside. In fact, it was so large she couldn't see where it ended! "Am I going to be in this field for hours?" She asked herself.

It was now midnight. She was still walking around in that field! "Now this is not possible." Bella told herself. "I must be going in circles or something."

Suddenly, a barn came in sight. "Yes!" She purred. "Somewhere to stay for the night! Maybe it has mice, too!"

Once she got to the barn, she ran in. "Purfect!" She purred. She then caught a mouse and ate it and then slept in hay. But Bella soon found she was not alone. "Hey!" Hissed a voice. "What are you doing in our barn?" Asked another voice. Then, two cats slid out of the shadows. One was a small white she-cat and the other one was a black and white tom. "Who are you?" Bella asked. "Well, who are *you*?" Asked the white she-cat. "My name is Bella." Bella meowed, feeling very confident. "Bella..." Mumbled the black and white tom. "Are you a Kittypet?" He asked. *Well, I was. I'm not a Kittypet anymore.* Bella thought. "No, I'm a loner. I was also going to ask if I can stay the night. I've been traveling for days and I'm exhausted." "We'll talk about it." Said the white she-cat. "By the way, I'm Fern. This is Lark." Fern and Lark squeezed down a hole and vanished out of sight.

Bella was looking at Fern and Lark as they slept. They had decided she could stay the night and had made her a nest and gave her water and mice. Bella couldn't go to bed! She was exhausted, but at the same time full of energy. She liked this barn and these cats and sort of wished she could live here. *No. This is their home. I can find mine.* Bella told herself. "I *will* find my home." She then promised herself. She curled up in a ball and tried to sleep.

Chapter Four

"Bye! Thanks for everything!" Bella meowed to Fern and Lark. It was morning. Bella was leaving. "You're welcome!" Lark yowled as Bella left. "Come back anytime!" Fern meowed. "I will!" Bella meowed back.

Bella was in the forest now. The oak forest. She had gotten out of the countryside and the fields. It was dusk. If she was still with her Housefolk, this would be her dinnertime. *You know what? I actually like being wild and free.* Bella realized. She walked a little farther.

Bella soon came upon a dead end. She was standing on a cliff edge! "I am on thin edge..." Bella realized. "If I mess up I'm gonna-" But it was too late. Bella slid off the cliff edge, falling and falling. Then she plunged into the water. *Help!* Bella thought as she struggled in the pounding water. She felt weak. *Please don't let me drown!* Bella silently pleaded. *I still have a life to live! I still need to find my new home!* Like the spirits had answered her plea, Bella could suddenly get up. "Huh," She mumbled. "That was easy."

That night, Bella was on the forest ground, on her back. Through the trees, she looked at the stars. "You know what?" She meowed. "I'm not a Kittypet anymore. Why keep the name 'Bella?'" She looked at the stars for about five more minutes. "How about Star? My new name will be Star." She meowed. "And this?" She hooked a paw around her collar. "I should have gotten rid of this a long time ago." She got up and ripped it of and threw it across the forest floor. She then layed down again and looked at the stars for the rest of the night.

Chapter Five

Star was in the pine forest. *I'm starting to lose hope I will ever find my new home.* It had been two weeks since she had named herself Star after the stars at night. She hadn't seen any other cats in this part of the forest. Star looked up at the sky. It was dark gray. *It's going to rain soon.* She thought. *But I don't need to find shelter just yet. I can probably get a little farther.* She walked a bit farther.

It was pouring down rain. "Dumb idea! Dumb idea!" Star scolded herself. There was no shelter in sight. Her silver tabby fur was soaked. Suddenly, a voice broke out of the pounding rain. "You! You over there! Come here!" Another cat! She had not seen another cat in weeks! "Where are you?" Star asked. "In here," Said the cat. His voice seemed to be coming from the boulder with moss all over it. "Are you in there?" Star asked. "In the boulder with moss all over it?" There was silence. Then, a ginger tom came out of the moss-boulder. "Did I really have to show you where I was?" He asked. "Just get inside."

Star walked inside. Turns out, the moss boulder was actually a cave that the ginger tom had put moss on to hide it a bit.

Star looked around. It was very dark. Thanks to her night vision - which all cats have- she could see. He had a next in the corner of the cave and a half-eaten crow next to it. He had a pile of prey. He also had some medical herbs in the other corner. "I like your den." Star meowed. "Thanks," Said the ginger tom. "I'm Red. Who are you?" Star scraped her paw on the wet, stony floor. "My name is Star."

Red had made her a nest and gave her a squirrel to eat and wet moss to drink. When Star had finished the squirrel and drank from the wet moss she purred, "Thank you," Red nodded. "You're welcome," He meowed. "May I stay the night?" Star asked, shyly. "Go on ahead." Red meowed. "Thank you, again." Star purred.

Chapter Six

Star was walking in the oak forest, again. It was bright and sunny out. She had just left Red's cave. Her paws were already getting tired.

Come on! We have to pull together, here! Star urged herself on. Then, she saw a ginger she-cat with an white tail that had odd, tabby stripes. The she-cat was carrying a pigeon and a squirrel. *Wow! She's a great hunter!* Star thought. Then, the she-cat seemed to see her. And she paced up to her, with a sort of frustrated look on her face. *Did I do something wrong?* Star thought. *Should I have come here?* Star wanted to start out friendly, just in case something *was* wrong. "Hello, how are you today?" She asked. "Good..." Answered the she-cat oddly. For some reason, Star wanted to introduce herself but didn't want to say her name was Star. *I don't have time to make something up to this cat...* She thought. *So I'll just go with Bella.* "My name's Bella, what's yours?" Star asked. *This feels stupid.* Star thought. "Amberblaze." Said the she-cat steadily. *Amberblaze... I heard that the wild clan cats have names like that. A combination of two words. Could Amberblaze be one of them?* Star thought. "Amberblaze... what a weird name. Why did your Housefolk name you that?" Star asked without thinking. *Why did I just call her a Kittypet?* Star thought, nervously. *She'll pound me for this!* "Well?" Star asked. "Why are you here?" Growled Amberblaze. *Eep!* Thought Star. *At this point Amberblaze won't let me go without a fight! Luckily I know how to fight well enough, but I still couldn't beat a clan cat!*

Star then decided to tell Amberblaze why she was here. She had also just decided where she wanted to live. "I ran away from my Housefolk." Star confessed. "They brought home this new cat named Smokey. Smokey made me leave. I want to live with the wild forest cats. Do you know them?" Star finished. *The cute charm always does the trick!* Star thought. She then looked at Amberblaze with wild, hopeful eyes. Amberblaze scraped the dirt with her paw. "Actully," Amberblaze began. "I am one."

I knew it! Star thought. Then she looked up at Amberblaze with gleaming eyes. "Really?" She meowed, just to confirm. Amberblaze nodded. "Yes, really."

"Can I live with you?" Asked Star. After a long pause, Star thought Amberblaze was going to turn and run back to her clan and Star would have to continue her long quest. But then, Amberblaze meowed, "We can try," *Yes!* Star thought. But then her head flowed with other worries. "What if they don't like me? What if they make fun of me?" She aked. Amberblaze shook her head. "That won't happen." She meowed. "I promise."

Chapter Seven

Star was nervous as she and Amberblaze walked Amberblaze's clan's camp."What is your clan called?" Star asked. "BlueClan." Amberblaze answered.

"How is this going to go?" Star asked. "Well, when we get there, our leader, Duskstar, is going to give you an apprentice name. He will also give you a mentor." Star nodded. "Cool." "Also," Amberblaze began. "Every apprentice's name ends with 'paw'. A kit has to stay in the nursery for six moons before becoming an apprentice." Star twitched her tail. "I'm older than six moons! I'm a year and a half old! I keep track!"

Amberblaze nodded. "I did notice you were the size as a full-grown cat. Please don't be surprised when the other apprentices think it's weird to have an adult cat in the apprentices' den. It's only natural." Star nodded. "I know." She meowed. "Tell me about being a clan cat altogether!" Amberblaze nodded again. "Okay," She meowed. "The leader's names all end with 'star' based on StarClan, our warrior ancestors. The medicine cats heal us and they talk to StarClan every half moon at the Moontree. RedClan is the other clan. They are our enemies. The medicine cats have a friendship with the RedClan medicine cats and they are friends. The only times we don't attack a RedClan warrior are at gatherings. Duskstar takes BlueClan to the gatherings every full-moon and Coralstar takes RedClan. We have a truce as long as the full-moon lasts. When you become a warrior, you get your own name. You keep the start of your name your whole life and the end changes as you get older. You start with kit, then you get paw, then you get your own unique name, then very rarely, if you become leader of your clan, you get star. You can have so many different ends of your name when you're a warrior. Tail, fur, pelt, heart, blaze, claw, shine, wing, feather..." Star didn't hear the rest of what Amberblaze was saying. She was now looking at the beautiful forest around her. She saw a bubbling stream, a few little animals, nice green trees, a beautiful shining sun. She could hear birds chirping and leaves rustling as they went on. "This place

is beautiful..." Star purred in awe. "I'll love to live here!"

Chapter Eight

"Starpaw! Starpaw!" What a coincidence! Her old name was Star and Duskstar had named her Starpaw! Starpaw was so proud. BlueClan was cheering her name. "Starpaw! Starpaw!" They chanted again. Starpaw then spotted Amberblaze talking to a gray she-cat. *They must just be having a little chat.* Starpaw thought.

That night Starpaw slept in the Apprentices' Den. Patchpaw and Sandpaw, the other apprentices slept on the other side of the den. *At last!* Starpaw thought happily. *I found a place to stay, BlueClan! And I will stay here forever.* Starpaw thought some more. She purred and tucked herself into sleep, knowing she would love this place forever and ever.